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~~multimedia communication, and the multimedia communication  
can be stably performed. Also, a transmission band for the  
multimedia communication can be efficiently used.~~

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been amended as follows:

Page 5

The paragraph at lines 17-26 has been amended as follows:

B2  
It is also preferred that the data communication device further comprises a line interface, connected with the communication line, for sending the transmission data to the communication line. The transmission control unit controls the line interface to add a new communication line connected with the line interface, in cases where the specific operation mode corresponds to a high error tolerance level, and to disconnect the new communication line from the line interface in cases where the specific operation mode has changed to a low error tolerance level.

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Pages 14-15

The paragraph beginning on page 14, line 26 and ending on page 15, line 1, has been amended as follows:

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B3  
Accordingly, ~~in~~ in cases where it is not required to insert redundant data into the transmission data due to the high error tolerance level, a ratio of a data transfer rate

b3  
for data sending to a data transfer rate for data reception is changed, and a transmission bandwidth in the multimedia communication can be efficiently used.

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Pages 27-28

The paragraph beginning on page 27, line 25 and ending on page 28, line 16 has been amended as follows:

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b4  
As ~~is~~—described above, in the second embodiment, current line states of the communication lines are always detected in the line state monitoring unit 22 of the data decoding and receiving device 12, error tolerance levels optimum to the detected line states are determined, and an operation mode change request indicating the changing to operation modes corresponding to the error tolerance levels is output from the data receiving and decoding device 12 to the data coding and sending device 11 through the communication line so as to make the data coding and sending device 11 select the operation modes corresponding to the error tolerance levels. Therefore, even though transmission quality of communication lines is deteriorated during multimedia communication, pieces of media data planned to be sent out to the communication lines can be multiplexed with each other in the data coding and sending device 11 according to the operation mode change request

b4  
sent from the data receiving and decoding device 12 through the communication line. Accordingly, each piece of media data can be prevented from being changed to faulty data or being lost during the multimedia communication, and the multimedia communication can be stably performed.

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Page 29

The paragraph at lines 8-24 has been amended as follows:

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b5  
In the second embodiment, current line states of the communication lines are always detected in the data decoding and receiving device 12, and an operation mode change request is sent to the data coding and sending device 11 to make the data coding and sending device 11 change the operation modes of the communication lines. However, the second embodiment is not limited to the detection of the line states in the data decoding and receiving device 12. For example, it is applicable that current line states of the communication lines be always detected in the data sending and receiving device 13 to make the data coding and sending device 11 (or another data sending and receiving device 13) change operation modes of the communication lines and multiplex pieces of media data sent ~~out~~ to the communication lines with each other

b5 according to data multiplexing methods relating to the changed operation modes.

Pages 38-39

The paragraph beginning on page 38, line 3 and ending on page 39, line 12 has been amended as follows:

b5 ~~As is described above, in the third embodiment, a~~  
current line state of each communication line is always  
detected in the data sending and receiving device 13 of the  
data sending end (or the data receiving end), an error  
tolerance level optimum to the detected line state is  
determined for each communication line, and an operation  
mode change request corresponding to the error tolerance  
levels of the communication lines is output to the data  
sending and receiving device 13 of the data receiving end  
(or the data sending end) through the communication ~~line~~  
~~-line~~. In cases where the operation mode change request is  
received in the data sending and receiving device 13 of the  
data receiving end, a stream of ~~multiplexed~~ multiplexed  
media data is demultiplexed to pieces of media data  
according to data demultiplexing methods corresponding to  
the determined error tolerance levels in the data sending  
and receiving device 13 of the data receiving end. Also, in  
cases where the operation mode change request is received

bb  
in the data sending and receiving device 13 of the data sending end, pieces of media data are ~~multiplexed~~ multiplexed to a stream of ~~multiplexed~~ multiplexed media data according to data multiplexing methods corresponding to the determined error tolerance levels in the data sending and receiving device 13 of the data sending end. Therefore, even though transmission quality of the communication lines is lowered during multimedia communication, an operation mode change request corresponding to high error tolerance levels is sent from the data sending end (or the data receiving end) to the data receiving end (or the data sending end), a stream of ~~multiplexed~~ multiplexed media data transmitted through the communication lines can be demultiplexed to pieces of media data on the data receiving end according to the operation mode change request sent from the data sending end, and pieces of media data can be multiplexed with each other on the data sending end according to the operation mode change request sent from the data receiving end through the communication line. Accordingly, the media data can be prevented from being changed to faulty data or being lost during multimedia communication, and the multimedia communication can be stably performed.

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Pages 39-40

The paragraph beginning on page 39, line 13 and ending on page 40, line 3, has been amended as follows:

Also, in the third embodiment, in cases where deteriorated transmission quality of communication lines is recovered to normal transmission quality, an operation mode change request corresponding to the normal transmission quality is sent from the data sending and receiving device 13 placed on the data sending end (or the data receiving end) to the data sending and receiving device 13 placed on the data receiving end (or the data sending end). In cases where the operation mode change request is received on the data receiving end, a stream of ~~multiplexed~~multiplexed media data is demultiplexed to pieces of media data according to data demultiplexing methods corresponding to normal error tolerance levels on the data receiving end. Also, in cases where the operation mode change request is received on the data sending end, pieces of media data are ~~multiplexed~~multiplexed with each other according to data multiplexing methods relating to normal error tolerance levels on the data sending end. Accordingly, a transmission band for the multimedia communication can be efficiently used while the multimedia communication is stably performed.

Page 40

The paragraph at lines 5-25 has been amended as follows:

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B) In the first to third embodiments, the number of communication lines for data sending connected with the data sending and receiving device 13 is fixed, and the number of communication lines for data reception connected with the data sending and receiving device 13 is fixed. That is, a transmission bandwidth for a stream of multiplexed media data sent from a data sending end to a data receiving end is fixed. In contrast, in a fourth embodiment, in cases where the line states of the communication lines already connecting the data sending end and the data receiving end considerably deteriorate, a plurality of new communication lines (or a new communication line) connecting the data sending end and the data receiving end are added to widen a transmission bandwidth for data transmission from the data sending end to the data receiving end. Also, in cases where the considerably-deteriorated line states are ~~recovered~~ restored to normal line states, the new communication lines, which connect the data sending end and the data receiving end, are disconnected from the data sending end and the data receiving end.

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Page 60

The paragraph at lines 2-18 has been amended as follows:

67 As ~~is~~ described above, in the fourth embodiment, in cases where current line states of the communication lines connecting the data sending and receiving devices 13 of the data transmission and receiving ends considerably deteriorate, not only a transmission control is performed for pieces of media data or a stream of multiplexed media data according to data multiplexing methods or data demultiplexing methods corresponding to high error tolerance levels, but also new communication lines connecting the data sending and receiving device 13 of the data sending end and the data sending and receiving device 13 of the data receiving end are added to sufficiently obtain a transmission bandwidth for the transmission of the stream of multiplexed media data. Accordingly, the media data can be prevented from being changed to faulty data or being lost during the multimedia communication, and the multimedia communication can be stably performed.

Page 73

The paragraph at lines 6-16 has been amended as follows:

68 As ~~is~~ described above, in the fifth embodiment, a data amount or a degree of importance in a downward stream of



B9  
multiplexed media data is compared with a data amount or a degree of importance in an upward stream of multiplexed media data, and a data transfer rate for the stream of multiplexed media data corresponding to a large data amount or a high degree of importance is increased. Accordingly, each piece of media data can be prevented from being changed to faulty data or being lost during the multimedia communication, and the multimedia communication can be stably performed.

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